Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 FEAE-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 INT-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ARAE-00 /063 W

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CONFIDENTIAL CARACAS 2149

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EINV, VE, US
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTRY REACTION TO STORY
THAT OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM BEHIND
FIRST NEW YORK TIMES PIECE

REF: CARACAS 2091

WHILE TALKING TO FOREIGN MINISTER ABOUT MARCH I
NEW YORK TIMES PIECE, CHARGE RAISED RESUMEN MAGAZINE'S
ARTICLE SUGGESTING OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM WAS BEHIND
FIRST NEW YORK TIMES STORY LINKING PRESIDENT PEREZ TO
ALLEGED CIA PAYMENTS (SEE REF). FOREIGN MINISTER HAD NOT READ
RESUMEN STORY ABOUT OCCIDENTAL, BUT HE HAD READ
RESUMEN'S INTERVIEW WITH NEW YORK TIMES REPORTER DAVID
BINDER. FOREIGN MINISTER'S REACTION WAS SKEPTICAL,
NOTING THAT HE HAD MET BINDER, AND BINDER'S CONTRITION
AS REPORTED IN RESUMEN INTERVIEW DID NOT "RING TRUE"
TO HIM. CHARGE ALSO DISCUSSED RESUMEN ARTICLE ABOUT
OCCIDENTAL WITH DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER WHO SAID
HE ASSUMED THAT MOST OF THE ARTICLE CUT OUT OF
WHOLE CLOTH, ESPECIALLY QUOTES ATTRIBUTED TO "HIGH"
STATE DEPARTMENT SOURCE.

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COMMENT: THESE HIGH LEVEL FOREIGN MINISTRY REACTIONS WOULD SUGGEST THAT RESUMEN ARTICLE DID NOT MAKE AS BIG AN IMPACT ON GOV AS MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED. ON THE OTHER HAND, FOREIGN MINISTRY ATTITUDES ARE NOT NECESSARILY REFLECTIVE OF THOSE IN THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. FURTHER, FOREIGN MINISTRY SOMETIMES NOT PLUGGED INTO IMPORTANT

GOV DELIBERATIONS.	END COMMENT
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Subject: FOREIGN MINISTRY REACTION TO STORY THAT OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM BEHIND FIRST NEW YORK TIMES PIECE

TAGS: PFOR, EINV, EFIN, VE, US, CIA, OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM, (PEREZ, CARLOS ANDRES)

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